

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 12 and 18, as indicated, below.

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11 (Cancelled)

Claim 12 (Currently amended) A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of chronic fatigue syndrome in a mammalian patient characterized by an excessive level of, or excessive sensitivity to, IL-6 cytokines in said patient, which method comprises:

selecting a patient suffering from or at risk of suffering from chronic fatigue syndrome;

withdrawing an aliquot of blood comprising blood cells from said patient;

subjecting said blood cells extracorporeally to stress comprising both oxidative conditions and ultraviolet conditions simultaneously;

administering to said patient an effective amount of stressed mammalian blood cells, wherein the level of IL-6 cytokines in said patient is reduced.

Claim 13 (Previously presented) The method of Claim 12, wherein the stressed mammalian blood cells have additionally been extracorporeally subjected to heat stress simultaneously with subjection to both oxidative conditions and ultraviolet radiation.

Claim 14 (Previously presented) The method of Claim 12, wherein the oxidative conditions comprise bubbling a gaseous mixture of medical grade oxygen and ozone through the blood, for a period of from about 0.5 minutes to about 60 minutes.

Claim 15 (Previously presented) The method of Claim 14, wherein the gaseous mixture has an ozone content of from about 0.1 to about 100 µg/mL.

Claim 16 (Previously presented) The method of Claim 12, wherein the ultraviolet stressor is UV-C radiation.

Claim 17 (Previously presented) The method of Claim 13, wherein the heat stressor is a temperature in the range of from about 40 to about 55°C.

Claim 18 (Previously presented) The method of Claim ~~9~~ 17, wherein the stressed mammalian blood cells comprise a volume of whole blood of from about 0.1 to about 400 mLs.